

# **Voting Abroad for the First Time in Mexico: an Assessment**

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## Mexicans: the largest immigrant group in the United States

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- According to the Census 2000, there are approximately **9.9 million** Mexican immigrants in the US. This is 10 % of the population in Mexico.
- Between 1990 and 2000 the number of foreign - born from Mexico in the US more than doubled.
- The foreign - born from Mexico make up 3 % of the total US population, but 12 % of total population in California.

Source: Elizabeth Grieco, 2003



## Mexico is the largest source of undocumented immigrants in the United States

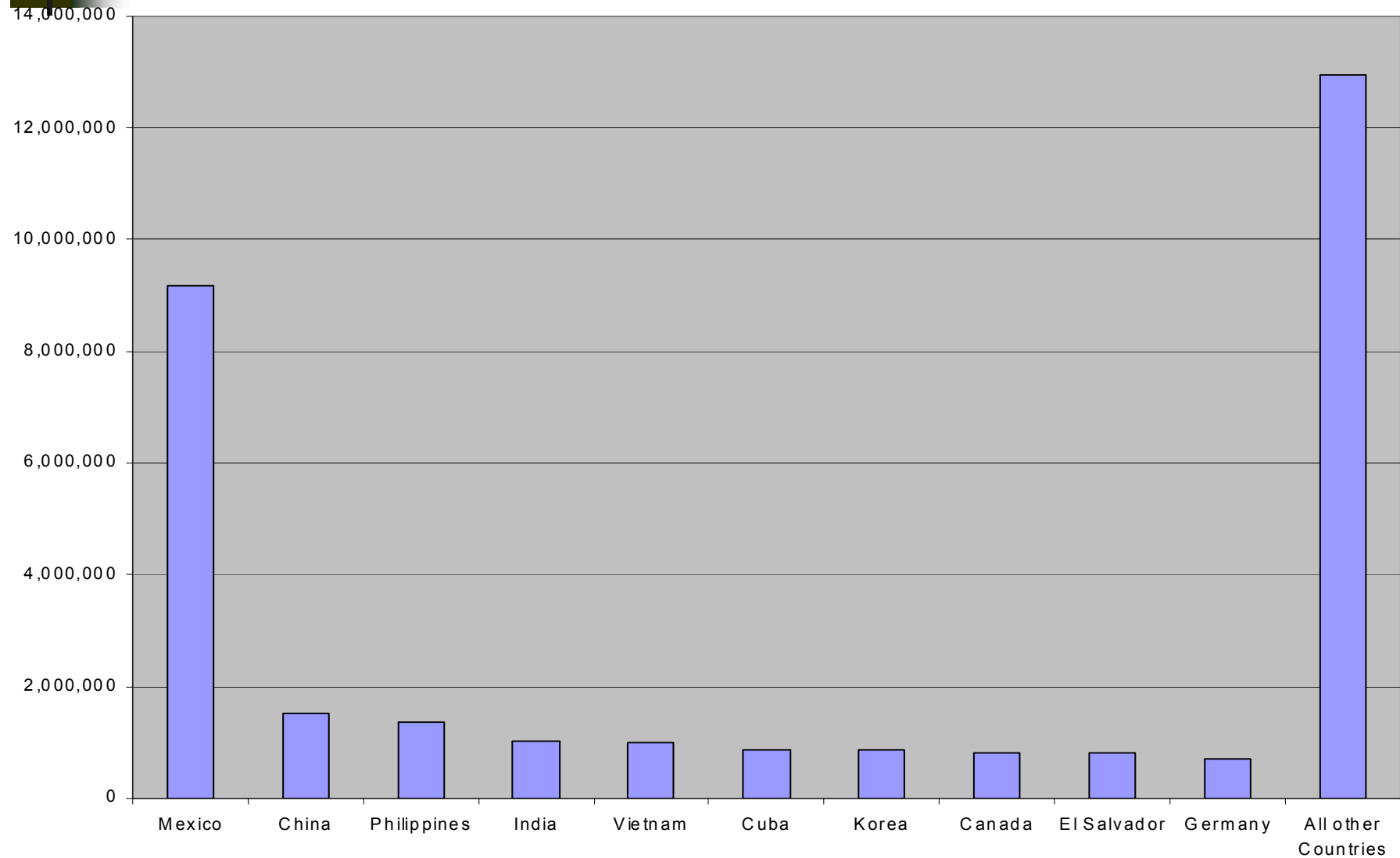
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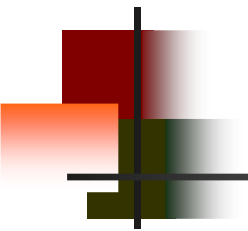
According to estimates based on the March 2004 Current Population Survey:

- There were an estimated **10.3 million** undocumented immigrants in the US.
- Of these, about **5.9 million (57 %)** were from Mexico.

Source: Jeffrey Passel, 2005

# Top Ten Countries of Birth of the Foreign – Born Population, 2000





## Socio-Demographic and Immigration Characteristics of the U.S. Foreign - Born Population by Region of Birth, 2000

	Median Age (Years)	Sex Ratio (Males per 100 Females)	Average Household Size	Educational Attainment (Percent High School Graduate or more) 25 and older	Median Length of Residence in the US (in years)	Percent of Naturalized Citizens
Total	38.1	100.1	3.3	67.0	14.4	37.4
Europe	50.0	94.7	2.4	81.3	25.0	52.0
Asia	39.2	91.7	3.2	83.8	14.3	47.1
Africa	37.2	140.1	3.1	94.9	10.2	37.0
Latin America	35.3	103.8	3.7	49.6	13.5	28.3
Caribbean	41.5	84.8	3.0	68.1	17.6	46.5
Central America	33.0	112.6	4.1	37.3	12.9	21.1
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>118.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>20.3</b>
Other	35.1	93.0	3.6	50.8	13.2	24.3
South America	38.2	91.8	3.2	79.7	13.0	38.6
Northern America	47.4	95.5	2.3	85.5	24.8	43.1

Source: Schmidley - U.S. Census Bureau, 2001.

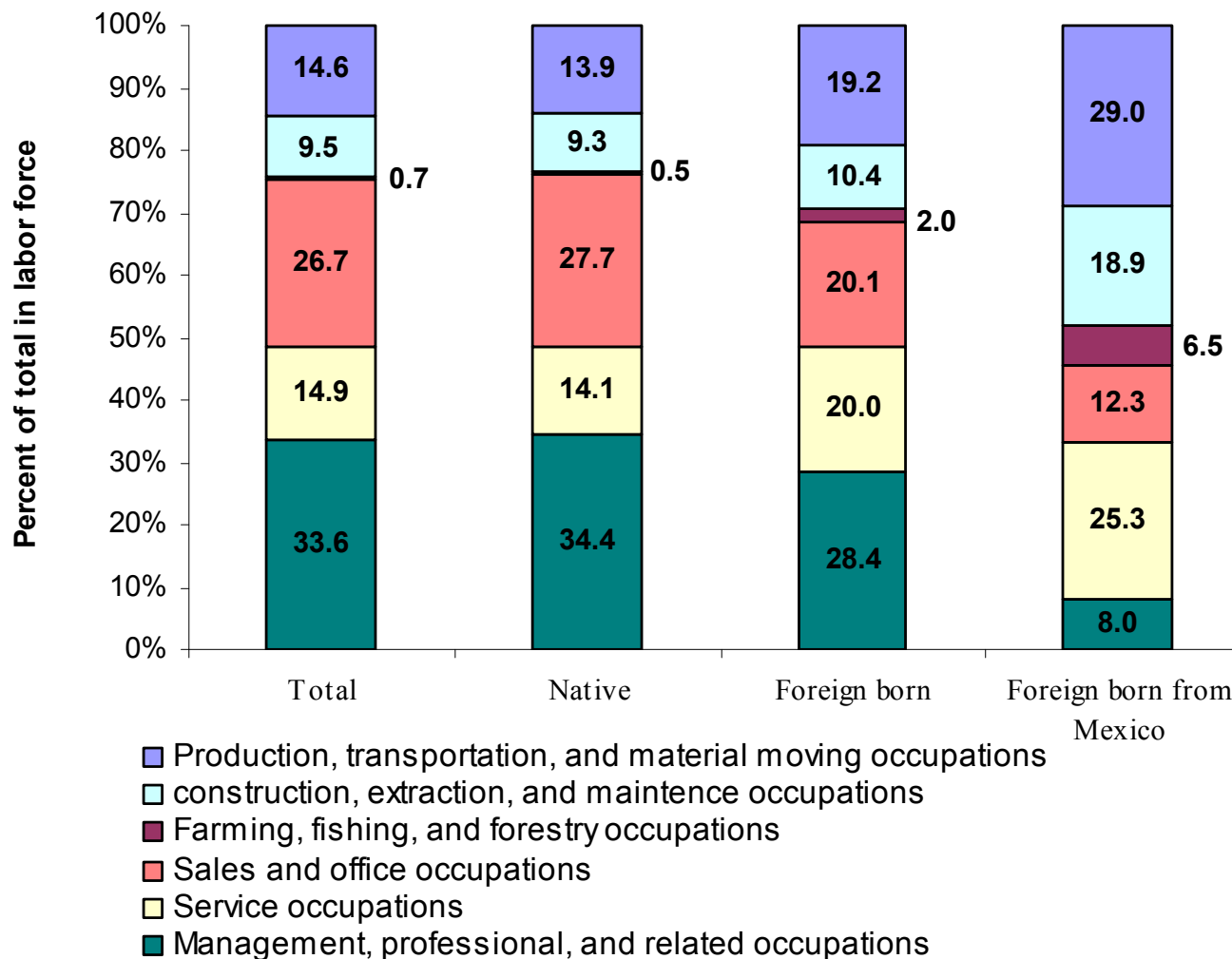
# Economic Status of the U.S. Foreign-Born Population by Region of Birth, 2000

	Labor Force Participation Rates (25 to 54 years old) Males	Labor Force Participation Rates (25 to 54 Years old) Females	Poverty Rates	Homeownership Rates	Household Income in 1999 (in Dollars)*
Total	92.8	66.5	16.8	48.8	\$ 36,048
Europe	93.1	73.8	9.3	63.5	\$ 41,733
Asia	91.4	68.9	12.8	52.0	\$ 51,363
Africa	-	-	13.2	38.2	\$ 36,371
Latin America	93.5	63.4	21.9	41.2	\$ 29,388
Caribbean	90.8	73.9	20.6	42.6	\$ 28,701
Central America	94.5	58.1	24.2	39.4	\$ 27,993
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>\$ 27,345</b>
Other	94.7	68.5	17.8	33.2	\$ 29,855
South America	91.7	73.0	11.5	47.4	\$ 40,480
Northern America	-	-	7.4	63.0	\$ 46,799

Source: Schmidley - U.S. Census Bureau, 2001.

\* Income of Foreign-Born Households by Region of Birth of the Householder.

# Total Native, Foreign-Born and Mexican Foreign-Born Populations In the United States by Major Occupation Groups, 2000



Source: Elizabeth Grieco and Brian Ray. 2004



## Phases in the Policymaking Process towards Mexican Emigrants:

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- 1.- Late 19th Century to 1940: Dissuasion –“traitors”
- 2.- 1942 – 1964 : Negotiation – Bracero Program
- 3. – 1970s –1980s: “Laissez – Faire” – “Policy of no Policy” (Manuel García y Griego).
- 4: 1990s: “Damage Control Policies”: 1988 Federal Elections in Mexico.
- 5: Currently: “Shared Responsibility”





# 3 Factors Behind the Emergence of Emigration Policy in Mexico

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- 1.- Electoral Fraud in 1988
- 2.- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994
- 3.- Proposition 187 in 1994



## **Policies towards Mexicans in the United States: the Federal Government**

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- 1989-1990: Programa Paisano – Grupos Beta
- 1990: Programa para las Comunidades Mexicanas en el Exterior (Program for Mexican Communities Abroad).
- 1996:  
Ley de la no Pérdida de la Nacionalidad Mexicana.  
(Double Nationality Law)  
**Reforma de la Constitución para permitir el Voto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior. (The Right To Vote Abroad).**



# **Policies towards Mexicans in the United States: the Federal Government**

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- 2000-2002: Oficina de Representación para Mexicanos en el Exterior y Mexico Americanos de la Presidencia de la República.
- 2003: Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME)



# Results of Presidential Election. Vote Abroad, July 2, 2006

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<b>Partido Político o Coalición</b>	<b>No de Votos</b>	<b>% de Votación</b>
Partido Acción Nacional	19,016	58.29%
Coalición Alianza por México	1,360	4.17%
Coalición por el Bien de Todos	11,090	34.00%
Partido Nueva Alianza	128	0.39%
Partido Alternativa Social Demócrata y Campesina	887	2.72%



## Role of State Governments

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- 1) State Legislation that Facilitates the Political Participation of Migrants
  - “Ley Migrante” in the State of Zacatecas that acknowledges the binational residency of Zacatecanos and allows them to be Candidates in State Elections.
  - A similar process is taking place in the State of Michoacán.



## **Role of State Governments**

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- **2) Creation of State Offices of Migrants Affairs**
  - **Instituto Estatal de Migración (Zacatecas)**
  - **Coordinación General para la Atención al Migrante Michoacano**
  - **Comisión Estatal de Apoyo a los Migrantes y sus Familias (Guanajuato)**
  - **Coordinación Estatal de Atención al Migrante Oaxaqueño**



## **Role of State Governments**

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### **3) Relationship with Home Town Associations (HTAs)**

- The HTA model was created by the Federation of Zacatecan Clubs of Southern California.
- Governor Borrego from Zacatecas visited the Federation in Los Angeles in 1986 and signed an agreement.



## The "3 x 1" Program

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The Federation of Zacatecan Clubs of Southern California and the Zacatecas Government created the "Two-for One" program that later became the "Three-for- One" program.

In this program the Federal, State and Municipal Governments each contribute a dollar for each dollar raised by HTAs for community development.





## Most important Federations of HTAs in 2003

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- Federation of Zacatecan Clubs of Southern California = 82 HTAs. This federation was founded in the mid-1960s and became institutionalized in the mid-1980s
- Federation of Jalisco Clubs = 82 HTAs - founded in 1991
- Oaxacan Federation of Indigenous Communities and Organizations in California (FOCOICA) = 32 organizations – founded in 2001

Source: Gaspar Rivera and Luis Escala, 2004



## Mexican Migrant Clubs and Federations in Los Angeles (1998-2003)

State of Origin	Number of Clubs:		Federation:	
	1998	2003	1998	2003
Jalisco	49	82	Yes	Yes
Michoacán	11	16	No	Yes
Zacatecas	51	52	Yes	Yes
Guanajuato	1	4	No	Yes
Federal District	0	0	No	No
Sinaloa	11	6	Yes	Yes
Durango	4	3	Yes	Yes
Nayarit	9	16	Yes	Yes
Guerrero	1	2	No	No
Puebla	5	4	No	No
Oaxaca	8	41	No	Yes
Others	20	49	-----	-----
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

Source: Gaspar Rivera and Luis Escala, 2004